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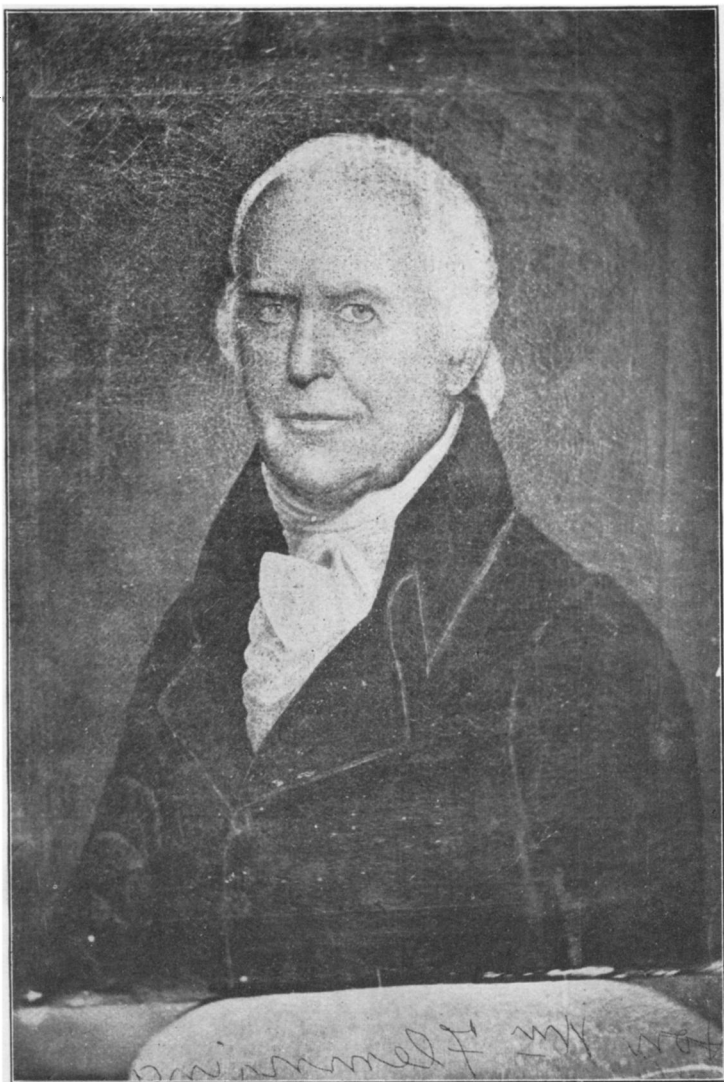
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JUDGE WILLIAM FLEMING

Negative Property of  
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- ii. Sarah Gorsuch<sup>7</sup> (Charles<sup>6</sup>, Charles<sup>5</sup>, Richard<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>5</sup>, Daniel<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>). Born June 13, 1728 (St. Peter's Reg.).
- iii. Elizabeth Gorsuch<sup>7</sup> (Charles<sup>6</sup>, Charles<sup>5</sup>, Richard<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Daniel<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>). Born Apr. 16, 1730 (St. Peter's Reg.).
- iv. John Gorsuch<sup>7</sup> (Charles<sup>6</sup>, Charles<sup>5</sup>, Richard<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Daniel<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>). Born March 14, 1731 (St. Peter's Reg.).
- v. Hannah Gorsuch<sup>7</sup> (Charles<sup>6</sup>, Charles<sup>5</sup>, Richard<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Daniel<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>). Born Feb. 20, 1733 (St. Peter's Reg.).
- (2)? Sarah Gorsuch<sup>6</sup>? (Charles<sup>5</sup>, Richard<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Daniel<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>).?

It seems probable that the Sarah Gorsuch whose marriage Nov. 19, 1724 to William Ridgway is recorded in the St. Peter's Register belongs here. This line has not been traced.

THE ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS OF JOHN ROLFE WITH NOTES ON SOME  
CONNECTED FAMILIES.

THE FLEMING FAMILY.

(Continued)

13. WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> FLEMING, "fourth son and sixth child was born at Mt. Pleasant in the county of Goochland (now Powhatan) on the 6th day of July 1736, and married Bettie Champe, the 6th and youngest daughter of Col. John Champe, late of the county of King George (merchant) on the fifth day of Oct. 1766 and had issue four daughters who lived to be women, and one son. He died at Summerville, February 15, 1824." (*Family Bible*).

William Fleming was educated at William and Mary College, and while there was the collegemate and friend of Jefferson, and others, who became leaders in the Revolution, and with whom he remained on intimate terms in after life. On completing his College course he studied for the bar, and commenced the practice of law in Cumberland and the neighboring counties. Not long before the Revolution he entered public life, taking his seat as a member of the House of Burgesses for Cumberland in February, 1772, and was reelected to the sessions of March 1773, May 1774, August 1774, and June 1775. Like all his family, Wm. Fleming was an active supporter of American rights, and in Feb. 1775 was a member of the county committee of safety of Cumberland. He was recommended by the committee for appointment as Colonel of the militia of the county, and qualified in this office by taking the oath Oct. 23d, 1775. On Nov. 26, 1775, when a new election was held to choose members of the committee, he received next to the highest vote, and on October 28, 1776 was again re-elected, he and George Carrington receiving the same vote,

more than was cast for any other (*Journal of Committee*). He was a member of the Conventions of March 1775, July 1775, December 1775, and of that which met May 6, 1776, and declared the independence of Virginia, and in the last named he was a member of the "independence committee." (*Journals of Conventions*). After the establishment of the state government he continued a member of the House of Delegates, representing Cumberland in Oct. 1776, Dec. 1776, May 1777, and Oct. 1777, and Powhatan (which had been formed from Cumberland) in the sessions of May and October 1778, Dec. 1779, and Chesterfield in May and Nov. 1780. During the sessions of 1780, he was Chairman of the committee of the whole. On Dec. 10th, 1778 the Virginia Assembly elected him a member of Congress, in the room of John Banister resigned, to serve until August 11, 1778. (*Journals of House of Delegates*). He appears not to have taken his seat in the latter body until April 28, 1779, for on that date the Journals of Congress record that he attended and presented his credentials. On Nov. 26, 1780 the Virginia Legislature again honored him by electing him a judge of the General Court, and some years later promoted him to the bench of the newly formed Court of Appeals. His commission to the latter position, dated Dec. 31, 1788, and signed by Gov. Beverley Randolph, is preserved.

Nor was it only in a civil capacity that Wm. Fleming rendered service during the Revolution. When the county of Powhatan was formed from Cumberland he was appointed county lieutenant, his commission, signed by Gov. Henry, bearing the date July 31st, 1777. He probably held this office for several years, and as documents remaining show, rendered useful service. Among the few of his papers which remain is a subscription list taken in Powhatan county, for the purpose of paying bounties to recruits and preventing a draught of the militia. It is as follows, the number after the names indicating the number of dollars subscribed:

"We the subscribers hereby oblige ourselves to pay on demand, to the commander of the militia of Powhatan, the several sums of money set against our names respectively, to be by him equally distributed amongst such able bodied men as will engage to serve in one of the Virginia regiments on continental establishment, for one year, in order to prevent a draught of the militia for completing the sd regiments; provided that not more than 200 dollars, besides the public bounty, be paid to any one person so enlisting.

"Wm. Fleming 40, Cha. Fleming 30, Wm. Mayo 30, Jas. Bagbey 10, Samuel Hobson 10, Thomas Moseley 10, Robt. Hatcher 10, Wm. Tucker Jur. 10, Jos. Mayo 10, Thos. Harris 20, Robt. Smith 10, John Moseley 10, Littleberry Mosby 40, David Hughes 10, Joseph Thomson 10, Wm. Pointer 3, Pete Wilkinson 3, Jas. Wilkinson 5, Absalom Toler 4, Saml. White 3, Patrick Fitzsimmons 4, Danl. Hix 3, Rd. Crump 30, Robt. Richardson 16, John Moss, D. Creek 6, Chas. Rice 4, Saml. Woodson 6, John Porter 10, John Steuart Senr. 5, Geo. Mosby 8, Edward Mumford 20, James Pleasants 10, S. Hyde Saunders 10, Jas. Drake 10, Henry Bagby

Jr. 6, W. Watson Sr. 3, Sam. Webster 4, John Wilkinson 4, Ananias Hancock 3, W. Goode 5, T. Wilkinson 2, P. F. Turpin 20, Capt. Binns 2, Wm. Karr 3, Thos. Epperson 3, Jesse Winfree 7, Jas. Toler 2, John Wilkinson 10, John Perkins 4, Jos. Baker 3, Peter Crawford 10, Jas. Kerr 2, Ab. Stovall 2, Egbert Woodfin 2, John Gibbies 6, Otey Prosser 4, Wm. Scott 3, Danl. Bagby 3, Bennett Goode 10, Edwd. Cox 20, Wm. Bagby 6, John Cannifax 5, John French 2, John Carter 10, Jacob Moseley 4, John Hurt 3, J. P. Bondurant 4, John Welburn 4, Saml. Morgan 4, Wm. Moss 4, Wm. Hules 9, Jos. Vaughan, Frank Stegar 10, Sandy Cousins 3, John Bryant 1, Wm. Bennet 1, Wm. Howard 2, Jos. Salle 2, Jas. Scott 3, Wm. Cooper 10, Wm. Forsie 10, John Sublit 6, John Depp 4, John Harris 4, John Sandefar 4, Wm. Burner 8, Wm. Street 5, John Short 5, Fell Leseur 3, C. Forsie 10, Robt. Cardin 5, Peter Lookado 10, Jos. Clark 3, David Flournoy 2, Shadrach Roper 12, Lewis Chadoin 8, Henry Holman 10, Danl. Branch 5, Noel Lacy 3, John Deans 30, Robt. Moseley 5, John Harris 20, Martin Leseur 5, Anth'y Martin 20, Geo. Stov. Smith 10, Wm. Burton 5, John Howard 20, John Moss 3, Dutoy Branch 2, Wm. Gay 40, John Moss, 5, David Lyne 5, John Bernard 25, Danl. Scott, John King, Jas. Bedford.

"Rec'd of Vincent Markham 12th Feby 1778, £23. 3. 9, or 77 dollars and 1. 9d. W. Fleming.

"Besides wch Jno. Baugh pd. 20 and T. Dawson 10 dollars. W. F. p'd at the G. muster 100 dollars to Vinc. Markham, who gave 30 of them to Rd. Crump.

"Collected by V. Markham and W. Mayo at Gen. Muster 207 Dollars."

From 1788 until his death, thirty six years, Wm. Fleming remained a judge of the Court of Appeals, and from 1810, was President of the court. While not a man of brilliant talents Judge Fleming was an able lawyer, and an efficient and useful judge.

In the series of biographical sketches of Virginia judges given in Coll's Reports (IV, XIX) it is said: "He had good sense, was an ardent patriot, and a very upright judge. Indulging in no theories or subtilties, his opinions were on the honest side of the cause; and always aiming to decide rightly, he generally attained his object."

Another writer says: "Roane could give more reasons for his opinion; but Fleming was most apt to be right."

The Richmond Enquirer of Feb. 19, 1824, prints a brief obituary: "We pay the melancholy duty we owe to a pure, revolutionary patriot, a most venerable citizen, an upright judge, in recording the death of William Fleming, esquire, Presiding Judge of the Court of Appeals of Virginia. He has descended to the tomb full of years and accompanied by the universal respect of his fellow citizens. The life of such a man calls for something more than a hasty paragraph in a newspaper. We should feel obliged to the pen which will furnish us with a biographical sketch of the deceased patriot, who has served his country near 60 years."

In the House of Delegates of Virginia, on Feb. 19th, "On motion of Mr. Branch the following resolution was adopted.

"Resolved unanimously, That this House from a grateful sense of the long and faithful public services of the late William Fleming, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Appeals, feel the deepest sympathy on account of his death.

In offering this resolution, Mr. Branch made a few handsome and appropriate remarks, in eulogy of the merits and virtues of that venerable and beloved citizen. His faithful and gallant services during the whole of the Revolution, both in the armies and the councils of the nation; his able and upright services for more than half a century, without the intermission of a day, in the various public stations, to which the admiration and confidence of his fellow citizens had called him, were all referred to by Mr. Branch as giving him a just claim to this tribute of respect and gratitude. But, Mr. Branch said, his amiable and gentlemanly deportment, his merits as a man; as a patriot, and as a friend and servant of his country, were too well known to require of him the least illustration."

Judge Fleming was throughout life a careful and systematic man in matters of business, and at his death left a large quantity of papers, and letters, neatly filed, filling several barrels. In addition to his own papers covering a public life of fifty years or more, there were many which had belonged to his father, and brothers, to all of whom he was surviving executor. This very valuable collection (which included his diary for many years) was almost entirely lost through the carelessness of his executor, and the latter's representatives.

In the *Southern Literary Messenger* for 1837, pp. 304-306, are printed several letters from Jefferson to William Fleming, and one from Fleming to Washington. The first letter is without date; but was evidently written shortly before the second, in 1764. These letters were found among Judge Fleming's papers. The second letter is endorsed by the recipient "Tom Jefferson's letter 20th March, 1764." The third letter, not represented here, is a request that Fleming take charge of the business of the Clients of Dabney Carr, who had just died, and the fourth and fifth (neither reprinted here) are on political subjects. The first two are given as illustrations of the life of the time and of the intimacy between Fleming and Jefferson.

"Ri xxxx

"Dear Will,

From a crowd of disagreeable companions, among whom I have spent three or four of the most tedious hours of my life, I retire into Gunn's bedchamber to converse in black and white with an absent friend. I heartily wish you were here that I might converse with a Christian once more before I die: for die I must this night unless I should be relieved by the arrival of some sociable fellow, but I will now endeavor to forget my present sufferings and think of what is more agreeable to both of us.

last Saturday I left Ned Carters ["Blenheim," Albemarle] where I had been happy in other good company, but particularly that of Miss Jenny Taliaferro and though I can view the beauties of this world with the most philosophical indifference, I could not but be sensible of the justice of the character you had given me of her. she has in my opinion a great resemblance of Nancy Wilton, [Ann Randolph of "Wilton"] but prettier. I was vastly pleased with her playing on the spinnette and singing, and could not help calling to mind those sublime verses of the Cumberland genius.

"Oh! how I was charmed to see  
Orpheus' music all in thee."

When you see Patsy Dandridge, tell 'god bless her.' I do not like the ups and downs of a country life; today you are frolicking with a fine girl and tomorrow you are moping by yourself. Thank god! I shall shortly be where my happiness will be less interrupted. I shall salute all the girls below in your name, particularly S—y P—r. dear Will I have thought of the cleverest plan of life that can be imagined. you exchange your land for Edgehill, or I mine for Fairfields, you marry S—y P—r, I marry R—a B—l [Rebecca Burwell, his "Belinda"], join and get a pole chair and a pair of keen horses, practise the law in the same courts, and drive about to all the dances in the country together. How do you like it? well I am sorry you are at such a distance I cannot hear your answer, however, you must let me know it by the first opportunity, and all the other news in the world which you imagine will affect me, I am dear Will

Yours affectionately

Th: Jefferson."

"Wms.burg! March 20. 1764. 11 o'clock at night.

Dear Will

As the messenger who delivered me your letter, informs me that your boy is to leave town tomorrow morning I will endeavor to answer it as circumstantially as the hour of the night, and a violent headach, with which I have been afflicted these two days, will permit. With regard to the scheme which I proposed to you some time since, I am sorry to tell you it is totally frustrated by Miss R. B's marriage with Jacquelin Ambler which the people here tell me they daily expect. I say, the people here tell me so, for (can you believe it?) I have been so abominably indolent as not to have seen her since last October, wherefore I cannot affirm that I know it from herself, though am as well satisfied that it is true as if she had told me. well the lord bless her I say! But S—y P—r is still left for you. I have given her a description of the gentleman who, as I told her intended to make her an offer of his hand, and asked whether or not he might expect it would be accepted. She would not determine till she saw him or his picture. Now Will, as you are a piece of a limner I desire that you will seat yourself immediately before your looking glass and draw such a picture of yourself. as you think proper,

and if it should be defective, blame yourself. (Mind that I mentioned no name to her). you say you are determined to be married as soon as possible, and advise me to do the same. No, thank ye; I will consider of it first. Many and great are the comforts of a single state, and neither of the reasons you urge can have any influence with an inhabitant and a young inhabitant too of Wms.burg. who told you that I reported you was courting Miss Dandridge and Miss Dangerfield? it might be worth your while to ask whether they were in earnest or not so far was I from it that I frequently bantered Miss J—y T—o about you, and told her how feelingly you spoke of her. There is scarcely any thing now going on here. You have heard I suppose that J. Page is courting Fanny Burwell. W. Bland, and Betsy Yates are to be married thursday sennight. The Secretary's son is expected in shortly. Willis has left town intirely so that your commands to him cannot be executed immediately, but those to the ladies I shall do myself the pleasure of delivering tomorrow night at the ball. Tom Randolph of Tuckahoe has a suit of Mecklenburg silk which he offered me for a suit of broadcloth. tell him that if they can be altered to fit me, I will be glad to take them on them terms, and if they cannot, I make no doubt but I can dispose of them here to his advantage. Perhaps you will have room to bring them in your portmanteau, or can contrive them down by some other opportunity. Let him know this immediately. My headachs, my candle is just going out, and my boy asleep, so must bid you adieu.

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WILLIAM FLEMING TO GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Dear Sir,

This will be handed you by my friend Mr. William Claiborne junr. who is at present a judge of the superior court of the state of Tennessee, and who aspires to the office of District judge in that state, where I spent several days in a late tour through the western country. Mr. Claiborne has much the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens in that quarter, among whom he has been a very successful practitioner of the law for several years; indeed his superior talents, great sobriety, and intense application to business, distinguish him from the generality of young gentlemen of his age; and I am persuaded, should he be so fortunate as to succeed in his application you will never have cause to regret the appointment.

I hope sir, you will pardon the trouble I have given you on this occasion; and whilst the pen is yet in my hand, and you are about to retire to the enjoyment of domestick tranquility, permit me to express my entire approbation, and admiration of the wisdom, ability, and firmness with which you have discharged the arduous duties of the most important office in the United States, at a time when party prejudice, interested views, and (perhaps) resentment for supposed injuries combined are ever